

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 58th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN DONALD L. HEDGES**, on January 13, 2003
at 8:35 A.M., in Room 102 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Donald L. Hedges, Chairman (R)
Rep. Rosalie (Rosie) Buzzas (D)
Sen. John Esp (R)
Rep. Eve Franklin (D)
Rep. Dave Lewis (R)
Sen. Bea McCarthy (D)

Members Excused: Sen. Royal Johnson, Vice Chairman (R)

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Amy Carlson, OBPP
Diana Williams, Committee Secretary
Lynn Zanto, Legislative Branch

Please Note: These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed. Tape counter notations refer to the material immediately preceding.

Committee Business Summary:

Hearing & Date Posted: Board of Public Education (BOPE),
Montana School for the Deaf and
Blind (MSDB)

Executive Action: None

Due to the actions that took place on January 6, 2003, the Legislative Fiscal Division handed out a memo that is directed to all the Agency Directors. Prior to the meeting, a copy of the memo was distributed.

EXHIBIT(jeh06a01)

HEARING ON BOARD OF PUBLIC EDUCATION (BOPE)

Overview of the Agency:

Steve Meloy, Executive Secretary, presented the overview of the agency. He provided general background about the Board and it's activities. He also thanked the Committee for allowing the BOPE to meet on the previous Friday (January 10, 2003) with the Committee. He provided the Committee a copy of his testimony.

Some additional items **Mr. Meloy** discussed were the size of the agency and the budget shortfalls that happened during the special session as well as what the agency has done to get some of the money back. But his biggest concern was that this Board is a partner with the Legislators on the oversight of the spending of the largest portion of the General Fund Budget and yet BOPE has has gotten the largest cuts in a pretty minimal budget.

Mr. Meloy said that he doesn't understand why the budget decisions are happening the way they are. BOPE has the largest constitutional statutory responsibilities with the smallest agency doing the work. All Board members are dedicated and wonderful and are finding it really hard and frustrating to get the work done.

EXHIBIT(jeh06a02)

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 21.6}

Proponents' Testimony:

Storrs Bishop, member of the Board of Public Education for nine years, provided a historical perspective on how the seven-member appointed Board use to act and how they act today. He also explained the additional duties of being a school board for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind and another important component of the Board is working with the Board of Regents.

Presently the Board is willing to take an assertive role in the leadership of the education community. He thought that this Board was uniquely poised to go further with these issues because they don't have a contingency and are appointed members. He said that

the Board is very accountable to the schools and to the people they work with and the product of their endeavors. Ultimately, the Board is accountable to the Committee for funding and the very existence of their ability at least to function.

He said that he is very disturbed at the prospect of having any type of funding that is less than what the Board operated with in 2002. He doesn't see how the Board can move forward and still provide quality work and collaborative work. He said that with any further cuts to the budget, meetings won't happen and meetings are the one time when K-12 items are addressed and resolutions tackled over how this system is going to be governed.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 21.6 - 26}

Randy Morris, member of the Board of Public Education, representing Southwest Montana, residing in Butte, asked for the Committee's support in reinstating the 2002 base level budget for BOPE. He limited his comments to the benefit of the continued membership in the National Association of the State Boards of Education (NASBE).

He informed the Committee on the specific areas that this Board has used the Association. In the area of strategic planning he explained that members of NASBE are on site to assist the Board in the one-year, two-year, and five-year planning sessions, and went into detail as to who the other partners are in this planning process. The Board has also utilized NASBE at the Association's expense for new Board training for two recently appointed members.

Through NASBE's assistance in assisting education constituents in study groups, low performing schools and reform of high school delivery systems were identified as issues of importance. He told the Committee about Diane Fladmo's involvement in this study group and the report that was produced. He also explained to the Committee about other National entities that he and Ms. Fladmo are involved with.

Generally speaking, the Board members utilize the resources available through NASBE and through it's membership when needed and have many benefits from being a member.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 26 - 30.2}

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 1}

Derek Duncan, Student Representative, Board of Public Education, talked about BOPE and the issues that are facing them.

EXHIBIT(jeh06a03)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 1 - 3.9}

Linda McCulloch, Superintendent of Public Instruction, said that OPI supports the budget requests of the Board of Public Education. She explained the separate and distinct roles of each agency and went into specific details as to what OPI legally reports to BOPE.

EXHIBIT(jeh06a04)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 3.9 - 6.9}

Bob Vogel, Montana School Boards Association (MTSBA), said that school board members across the state recognize the very important role that BOPE plays in the operation of the state's school districts. He gave two examples of how the Board has worked through some issues. One was the Chapter 57 review in which the Board allowed input from all and allowed a voice on how it would be run. The other is in reciprocity for teachers and administrators from out of state. BOPE helped with this on behalf of K-12 school districts in Montana. He said that this Board is flexible.

On a personal note he said that he is a long-standing member of the Certification Standards and Practices Advisory Council and appreciates directly the role that BOPE plays. He is asking that the Committee rise in support of reinstituting the BOPE's 2002 budget.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 6.9 - 8.9}

Amy Carlson, OBBP, went over the Governor's Budget. She said that this office set targets statewide and set out a way to meet them. The Board of Public Education was treated similar to all other State agencies in that respect. She said that there were some specific Decision Packages that basically deal with present law and then some new proposals that will actually just move present law to bring it back to the Special Session adjustments that were made during the Special Session. And this budget is consistent with the budget approved in the Special Session for the General Funds.

Lynn Zanto, Legislative Fiscal Division, provided the committee with the overview sheet that shows where the Board of Public Education stands in relation to the decision that was made on January 6, 2003. **Ms. Zanto** went over the only Decision Package that is impacting the General Fund which carries forward the

Special Session reductions. As far as LFD issues, she explained the option of having the teacher certification fees increased. She said if the teacher's fees were increased it would take a statutory change.

EXHIBIT (jeh06a05)

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 8.9 - 13.5}

SEN. McCARTHY asked various questions of **Ms. Zanto** over teacher certification renewals and the fees associated with that. The renewal is done every five years. The annual revenue projection is \$157,500 which **CHAIRMAN HEDGES** said that in previous testimony the Committee heard that the number of teachers who renew each year is 5,250. The renewals don't occur until the first of July. The money generated with the potential increase would be available the following July (2004) when the new budget starts.

Ms. Zanto then explained the two Decision Packages that impact the nongeneral funds which aren't reflected on this sheet and provided some options that the Committee could consider with these packages.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 13.5 - 16}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. BUZZAS asked additional questions that dealt with teacher certification renewals. **Mr. Meloy** said that the last fee increase occurred in 1991, with \$6 a year assessed and \$30 being paid every five years. The district that the teacher is working at doesn't pay the fees, rather the individual teachers have to pay for this. **Mr. Meloy** said that in the future these certifications will be called professional licenses. Many states use this term for authorization to practice teaching so consistency will occur by adopting this term.

REP. BUZZAS wanted to know the impact of the Board's workload in relation to implementing the No Child Left Behind Act. **Mr. Meloy** said that the concern that the school districts have is, can BOPE and the State of Montana find a way to comply with this mandate without bombarding the students with testing. The Board is actively involved in finding a solution and there are two assessment task forces working on this issue. He said that the "No Child Left Behind" Act has caused a great deal of involvement from BOPE and asked if Nancy Coopersmith from OPI could address the federal funding that occurs with implementing this mandate.

Nancy Coopersmith, Assistant Superintendent, Office of Public Instruction, said that the No Child Left Behind Act, which re-authorized the law that has been out there a long time, does provide funding for the development of assessment instruments. She said that the minimal amount will be \$3 million a year and through a follow question told the Committee that this \$3 million a year will be provided for the length of that law, with authorization being done every year.

There is an agreement between OPI and the Federal Government for implementing this law. **Ms. Coopersmith** said that the contract takes \$2.5 million of that \$3 million appropriations. She said that the funding in the contract would cover the addition of those grade levels that will have to be tested. Currently Grades 3, 8 and 11 are tested. The new law will require Grades 4, 5, 6, and 7 to be tested.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 16 - 22.2}

SEN. McCARTHY wanted to know how much the cost of testing was to the school districts when the legislators required the testing in the last session. **Ms. Coopersmith** thought it was about \$250,000 for the contract with Riverside Publishing to provide the IOWA test, which is a norm reference test, that assesses the basics at various grade levels.

Kathy Fabiano, Assistant Superintendent for Operations at Office of Public Instruction, said that the money for the Riverside Testing last year was provided by OPI through a one time Federal Grant. For this year, some of the flex-fund money that was suppose to go to school districts has been instead prorated to the Office of Public Instruction to pay for the testing for this year.

SEN. McCARTHY wanted to know if the potential \$3 million from Federal Funds would either replace the cost of the Riverside Contract or is it an additional cost. **Ms. Fabiano** thought the \$3 million was to develop the test. The Riverside Contract is for the grading and dissemination of the results of the test.

SEN. McCARTHY said that with this proposal it seems that more of the troubled children, the handicapped children are going to need testing. Previously the cost for that testing had to come from the school district budgets and special ed funding. She was wondering if with the new proposal, could the money be able to move and relieve school districts of that cost.

Ms. Coopersmith said that it was her understanding that the No Child Left Behind Act requires educators to assess children

according to their knowledge of standards. And that includes all children, especially those children who are vulnerable, special education children, and several other groups. But she believed the testing that SEN. McCARTHY was referring to was the diagnostic testing that places the children with special needs into the Special Education Program. She said that this diagnostic testing doesn't replace the test that assesses the children's knowledge.

CHAIRMAN HEDGES said that the Committee may be moving from School Board Funding to OPI funding in this discussion. **SEN. McCARTHY** said that the reason behind the questions was that she thought there might be a possibility of having a mix of funds that could work for implementing this act. She apologized for having this "train of thought."

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 22.2 - 26.2}

REP. LEWIS said that in the past, the educational impact that BOPE has on the system has been inconsequential and explained why he felt like that. He went further to say that in Mr. Bishop's testimony it was said that the Board is on the verge of making some major contributions to education governance. **REP. LEWIS** was wondering what that would be as well as when that would happen and directed these questions to Mr. Bishop.

Mr. Bishop said that he was not at liberty to go into the details beyond the activities at the present. Presently, BOPE has worked with many different entities in the educational community and named some agencies. He said that due to the Board's relationship with all of these agencies, a more comprehensive approach in addressing the problems that are facing education could occur.

He said that the system isn't working. He thought it was time for BOPE to take the initiative to move ahead and address some long standing concerns that would be for the betterment of everyone. He felt it might even be a solution to some of the funding problems. He apologized for not having a more specific answer, but it is a direction that the Board would like to undertake at this time. And he felt that BOPE is the entity that could best do that.

As far as the time frame for this activity **Mr. Bishop** thought that in this coming year the Board would offer suggestions to the people involved in this project. He said that this is a hands on look at areas that the Board thinks needs to be addressed.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 26.3 - 30}

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 1.9}

REP. FRANKLIN wanted to know if Mr. Bishop thought that in the ten-year period that he has been on the Board, has BOPE met the majority of the statutory powers and duties that govern BOPE. **Mr. Bishop** said he believed so.

Mr. Bishop said that he sees a real need for a body to tackle those initiatives and address those issues that are facing education. He said that he understands where **REP. LEWIS's** opinion of the Board is coming from. The way the Board acted ten years ago and the way it acts today is dramatically different. He said that there is much more expertise on the Board and the people are much more driven and have the desire to tackle some of these problems because they haven't been addressed.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1.9 - 4.2}

CHAIRMAN HEDGES said that through today's testimony, the Committee heard the tasks that BOPE embarks upon as well as their value in the educational system. He asked Superintendent McCulloch if it would be within OPI's budget to move \$50,000 or \$100,000 to BOPE to make it a whole agency.

Supt. McCulloch explained OPI's budget cuts, how the agency has to work overtime to make ends met, as well as other duties that OPI does. She said that she didn't know where the \$50,000 to \$100,000 would come from without it coming out of the services that OPI needs to provide to the school districts.

CHAIRMAN HEDGES said that he was just trying to group the strays into a bigger bunch. In his follow up question he wanted to know OPI's opinion on increasing the cost for licensing teachers.

Supt. McCulloch said that presently teacher's salaries are 48th in the nation. And she knows that with the renewal fees that are presently charged are comparable even with the surrounding states. She thought it would be very difficult for the educators to have to pay this.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 4.2 - 8.5}

The question and answer period then addressed the costs of licensing. **REP. LEWIS** felt that the cost of having the paperwork done should be paid by the educator. It wasn't determined what that cost is. And **Supt. McCulloch** responded to **SEN. McCARTHY's** questions by saying that certification is still in paper form but OPI is currently trying to get the process on-line. The finger printing will only have to occur with initial licenses, emergency licenses or provisional licenses, and that process will start immediately.

CHAIRMAN HEDGES said that there are three options for funding this agency. In executive action the Committee can reduce the budget, to backfill through certification licensing increases, or take the money from somewhere else in the General Fund.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.5 - 13.2}

HEARING ON MONTANA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND (MSDB)

Overview of Agency:

The programs that MSDB currently offer around the state and at Great Falls and the implications on the budget scenario will be presented by **Steve Gettel, Superintendent for the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind** and Bill Sykes, Business Manager will talk specifically to the numbers.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 13.2 - 14.1}

Bill Sykes, Business Manager for MSDB, addressed the funding that would be necessary to maintain the current level of services and the actions that were necessary with the Special Session reductions.

EXHIBIT (jeh06a06)

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 14.1 - 20.3}

It was mentioned that the consumables are no longer available for your textbooks and **SEN. McCARTHY** wanted to know what the school is using as a replacement. **Mr. Sykes** referred the answer to Supt. Gettel.

Supt. Gettel said that the current math series are addressing more abstract and random thinking and with these kids, concrete, sequential information is necessary so they use the copy machine to reproduce the pages used for the students, which is much more expensive in the long run.

SEN. McCARTHY wanted to know if this school still supplies books to the districts that have deaf or blind kids on their campus.

Supt. Gettel said, "That matter has resolved itself through technology." MSDB ended up informing the district of the vendors so the school districts can purchase them directly. With electronic versions of text some of the text can be brailled out at the district itself. So there is a combination of things going on, but MSDB does not provide those text books.

SEN. McCARTHY inquired into how many computers are available at the school. **Supt. Gettel** explained that the school has two small labs as well as having a computer in each classroom. There are a couple of computers for the visually impaired student as well as having computers in each cottage as well as two in the activity room. He said all of that equipment was purchased through the Foundation, not with foundation money necessarily but the money was used as a leveraging tool.

Mr. Sykes explained in greater detail as to how the braille book gets to the districts. He said that MSDB doesn't purchase any materials that are distributed to districts. That is the districts responsibility.

SEN. McCARTHY said that in the past, the textbooks were sent back to MSDB and the districts didn't have to buy them. The districts used it for the period that was needed and then returned it. By keeping it at the district has provided both an expense for the district as well as expense for the State.

Mr. Sykes said, "That is correct." It use to be more efficient when the textbooks and equipment went through MSDB. He talked about a present day example of a school district that spent \$20,000 for necessary equipment for one student and the student moved but the equipment stayed. If this would have run through MSDB, it could have gotten pulled and moved around to where ever the student moved to.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 20.3 - 26.3}

REP. LEWIS addressed questions to Mr. Sykes that dealt with the number of students enrolled. **Mr. Sykes** said that the school is serving about the same number of students that has been served for about the last five years and that is around 80.

CHAIRMAN HEDGES politely said that these type of questions might be answered in the presentation.

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 26.3 - 27.7}

Supt. Gettel went over the statutory responsibilities of MSDB.

The first function is to provide educational placement for deaf and blind children in the State of Montana who have had a disability so severe that the student cannot be successfully educated in their home district. The students at this school will be provided the same education as they would have received by the nonhandicapped peers.

The second function is to provide consultative services to families of children who are not yet enrolled in school and to public schools upon their request, to come in and provide technical assistance to those personnel in those districts who have deaf or blind children enrolled in their programs.

He further explained the programs that are available and the response to the Budget Proposals

{Tape: 2; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 27.7 - 29.8}

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 22.4}

EXHIBIT(jeh06a07)

Proponents' Testimony:

Myrle Tompkins, President of the Montana Association for the Blind, explained who belonged to this organization. She expressed the Association's concern over the trends that she sees happening with the deaf and blind people. MSDB promotes literacy and for this reason the Association fully supports a fully funded MSDB. She supplied written testimony and is visually impaired.

EXHIBIT(jeh06a08)

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 22.4 - 24.1}

Darrell Rud, Executive Director of the School Administrators of Montana (SAM), said that he would like to talk on behalf of the other 346 administrative districts in the State of Montana whose children are served by MSDB. He gave one example of how MSDB helped him when he was a principal. He went into the details as to what this school district did to try and meet the needs of this student. While this process was going on, MSDB provided consulting to the parents, the school, and the community prior to the student attending MSDB. So he urged the Committee to support full and adequate funding for MSDB.

On a personal note, **Mr. Rud** said that if the handicapped cannot be taken care of in this state, he really believes something else has to change in the funding mechanisms. This is one of our most vulnerable groups of people in the entire state. Our old, our young, and our handicap certainly have to have their needs met so he urges the Committee to support full and adequate funding for this school.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 24.1 - 26.8}

Randy Morris, member of the Board of Public Education, who also chair's MSDB school board, said that \$359,000 is critical to the school's ability to provide the mandated services. He explained that many of the students who live on campus are not only hearing and/or visually impaired but also have additional impairments whether it be mental, physical, etc. so they are multi-handicapped students. And the school is required to provide a delivery system to meet those needs in the least restrictive environment.

With a lack of funding the life skills program would be eliminated. Presently there are four students who progressed through this program and are working part-time. A lack of funding would eliminate these types of critical programs.

Mr. Morris invited any member to visit the facility as well as touched upon the program that deals with the "Expression of Silence." He is asking that this Committee continue to support this school.

{Tape: 2; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 26.8 - 27.9}

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 1.2}

Terry Minow, MEA-MFT, which represents teachers and other educators at the School for the Deaf and Blind as well as teachers from across the State of Montana said that this organization fully supports the restoration of funding for MSDB. Quality education is provided for these kids both through on-site learning and through consulting services across the state. He said that it is a very cost-effective, very efficient way to provide services to the children who desperately need them. He asked that the Committee support restoration of the funding.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1.2 - 2}

Ms. Carlson, OBBP, said that the school has done a very good job of outlining their budget and providing the current issues. The steps that were taken to set the target for this agency was done in a similar manner as to how the other agencies achieved their target. Due to the funding switches that was done during the Special Session it was a little more confusing but the office tried to treat this agency very consistent.

Ms. Carlson said that in the Governor's Budget the budget allowed for reductions but to the level that this school could still operate in a similar manner as was done in the past and still maintain their programs. She encouraged the Committee to support the Governor's budget.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 2 - 3}

Lynn Zanto, Legislative Fiscal Division, said that the only LFD issue that was raised was the uncertainty of the MTAP funding. There is a greater concern since HB 266 is presented in this Session. HB 266 which basically reverses what the Special Session did. If passed, the school would be ineligible for that particular funding.

She also passed out the bridge document that ties the new legislative base to the executive budget.

EXHIBIT(jeh06a09)

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 3 - 3.6}

Questions from Committee Members and Responses:

REP. FRANKLIN asked Supt. Gettel to "clarify to the committee, in addition to the obvious concern educational about combining classrooms of students who aren't the best educational mix what would happen to the professional staff that you invested quite a bit of training, and recruitment. What's your prognosis?"

Supt. Gettel said that with the budget of a little over \$3 million, most of the reductions would come out of the residential program. The school is down to a core in the education program. No more teaching positions can be given up without affecting the quality of the education experience for the student. **Supt. Gettel** said that when there is talk about reducing staff, it is hard on morale. He talked specifically about impacts that would occur with the potential loss of the new teacher that is at the School. With this cut there would also be two assistants.

He went into detail as to where the four school districts that employ teachers of the deaf, teachers of the blind are at. And he said that there are seven teachers in Montana who have an advanced degree in that field of training. There are other people around the state with a lot of experience. He said that the need is there to keep them in Montana. So by reducing staff, Montana also loses a valued resource.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 3.6 - 6.2}

Through questions from **SEN. MCCARTHY** and answers by **Supt. Gettel** it was verified that in order to meet the budget, a cottage may have to be closed. There are five wings. With the cottage that may close there are six or seven students. These students would

go to other wings. **Supt. Gettel** said that space-wise the school could accommodate the students who would be going to another wing. It was also clarified that the cottages have to be opened 235 days and the school is opened 180 days. The cottage is opened about three weekends a month.

SEN. MCCARTHY wanted to know how many students graduated as well as what they were presently doing with their life. **Supt. Gettel** said that nine graduated last year and told the Committee what each one was doing presently.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.2 - 8.6}

Through Supt. Gettel's testimony it was learned that over the past couple of decades the enrollment to the School has dropped. **SEN. ESP** was wondering if there has been anything done to predict what the future will hold.

Supt. Gettel said that it hasn't been done because there isn't a good set of data to work from. That is the reason why MSDB introduced SB 42 which would put in as a statutory obligation for the schools to set up a registry tracking of sensory impaired children in Montana. MSDB hopes that within a couple of years by having a registry, the data could then be looked at and some projections could happen.

Supt. Gettel then went over the reasons why he thought the school's enrollment went down as well as why he feels it will stay between 75 to 85 students. He said that with medical technology, babies may have additional impairments due to the medical techniques that have been used. He said that presently about 30 percent of the children at MSDB have really significant secondary disabilities and most of them have some other issue besides being visually or hearing impaired. If they didn't, their home districts would probably be able to successfully educate them. And the reason why they are at MSDB is that they are in the least restrictive environment.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 8.6 - 11.8}

REP. LEWIS asked Supt. Gettel if he thought the public schools were doing enough to try and make these services available to the student so they don't have to travel to Great Falls. He said to cut to the chase, "we are spending \$40,000 a year for a child in Great Falls, based on your budget divided by 80." **REP. LEWIS** was wondering if there could be a less costly way of educating these children.

Supt. Gettel said that though it seems extremely expensive, "there's no doubt about it," there isn't any other education option for those 75 to 85 kids on the campus. And the current staff is needed so the students can get quality education.

Supt. Gettel said that if the district personnel has the right skills to teach the child, that local interpreter would be used but there is a problem in that many districts don't have the qualified staff. So he said that what the State could do is encourage the college students to have the training necessary to work with these kids. He briefly went over a masters program that is available.

Supt. Gettel said that if the child at some point feels isolated, the peer and the social issues are going to become essential and then that is when MSDB begins educating them. He said that usually happens in middle school.

Supt. Gettel thought more outreach programs would help but with MSDB, they couldn't cut any of their dollars that are in the budget to fund these additional programs.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 11.8 - 16.5}

SEN. MCCARTHY asked if most of the students that are at the school are only educatable through the school environment. **Supt. Gettel** said that children are educable if they have in place the right services, and the professional staff that is necessary to work with them are in place. It could be in their home district. He said that often times the reason why the person isn't educated in his/her home district is that there isn't professional staff in the town.

The other question that **SEN. MCCARTHY** asked dealt with families moving to Great Falls. **Supt. Gettel** said that in the past two years of the 15 new enrollments, two families have moved to Great Falls. He then explained why this happens.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 16.5 - 19.6}

REP. BUZZAS wanted to know where the graduates of MSDB went and she asked for Supt. Gettel's opinion on the importance of socialization for these kids.

Supt. Gettel told what the graduates are doing. As far as socialization, he said that there are two scenarios -- one is when the student feels isolated and then goes to MSDB. He went through how that isolation may happen. The other scenario is when the student who successfully went through the educational

experience but may have issues that were never brought out. They may feel isolated and feel alone and struggle to become productive adults.

He said the biggest extracurricular activity on campus is "Expression of Silence." The person who can go back and forth between the hearing and nonhearing worlds will have greater success in the adult world.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 19.6 - 25.9}

CHAIRMAN HEDGES thought it might work to have Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) do the outside campus maintenance. He thought another benefit would be that FWP could use their expertise.

Mr. Sykes was opened to that suggestion. He said that part of the problem with MSDB is that there are only four people to keep the facility clean. The other problem is that there are probably ten acres of grassy area of which only 30 percent is watered through an irrigation system and the rest has to be hand watered.

CHAIRMAN HEDGES' second question dealt with the possible interfacing between Health and Human services and the services that are provided by MSDB. **Mr. Gettel** said that it hasn't happened yet. He said that there has been discussions with this agency. He went through the types of interface and the problems associated with each type.

As a starting point the two agencies were able to come up with the infant screening hearing guidelines. The information received at the screening would then be placed in the registry and from there, some planning for future needs might occur.

CHAIRMAN HEDGES asked if MSDB has an agreement with the State Library in terms of the Talking Book Program and their computer system. **Mr. Sykes** said that an agreement isn't necessary. MSDB participates every week. He also explained that MSDB's library became automated so it is a resource for every district in the state. And with interlibrary loans, the costs of supplying these books should be reduced.

CHAIRMAN HEDGES said that since these hearings are complete, the hearing that is scheduled for tomorrow is cancelled. The committee will reconvene at 10:00 AM tomorrow for executive action on BOPE and MSDB.

{Tape: 3; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 26.0 - 30.3}

{Tape: 3; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 4.7}

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 11:25 A.M.

REP. DONALD L. HEDGES, Chairman

DIANA WILLIAMS, Secretary

DH/DW

EXHIBIT (jeh06aad)